United Nations S/2017/864

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 October 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 13 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our previous letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016), the most recent being our identical letters dated 27 September 2017 (S/2017/808), I should like to transmit to you, on instructions from my Government, the following important information on violations by certain international non-governmental organizations of Syrian sovereignty, which are actually being condoned by the United Nations.

Operative paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) states that the Security Council "decides to establish a monitoring mechanism, under the authority of the United Nations Secretary-General, to monitor, with the consent of the relevant neighbouring countries of Syria, the loading of all humanitarian relief consignments of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners at the relevant United Nations facilities, and any subsequent opening of the consignments by the customs authorities of the relevant neighbouring countries, for passage into Syria across the border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha, and with notification by the United Nations to the Syrian authorities, in order to confirm the humanitarian nature of these relief consignments".

In that connection, we draw attention to paragraph 23 of the forty-third report of the Secretary-General, covering the period from 1 to 30 August 2017 (S/2017/794), which states that "the access of non-governmental organizations from Iraq through the Fish Khabur border crossing point has resulted in increased overall access by non-governmental organizations".

Resolution 2165 (2014) clearly and explicitly identifies the four border crossing points designated for the entry of such assistance, namely: Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha. That resolution designates those crossings exclusively for the delivery of assistance to civilians in need.

The use by certain international non-governmental organizations of the Fish Khabur border crossing on the Syrian-Iraqi border illegally and without explicit authorization from the Security Council on humanitarian grounds, and the subsequent condoning of that action by the United Nations, both constitute flagrant violations of the sovereignty of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and an unacceptable overstepping of the mandate of resolution 2165 (2014).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again stresses that it categorically rejects any overstepping of the mandate of resolution 2165 (2014), and rejects any involvement of the United Nations and other international non-governmental organizations in the delivery of humanitarian assistance through that or any other illegal crossing. The basic principles governing humanitarian action must be respected. Syria calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to take prompt measures to prevent the recurrence of such illegal acts.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative